

Office of the President



February 9, 2010

Dear Senator Handley, Representative Willis and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee:

I am delighted to write in support of House Bill 5024, "An Act Concerning an Educational Doctoral Degree Program in Nursing Education" which would allow the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) to offer an Ed.D. degree in nursing education. We strongly support the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) proposed Ed.D. in Nursing Education that would be offered collaboratively by Southern Connecticut State University and Western Connecticut State University.

Yale-New Haven Hospital is a 944-bed tertiary referral medical center, which includes the Smilow Cancer Hospital, Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, and the Yale-New Haven Psychiatric Hospital. As a healthcare institution that is regularly ranked among the nation's best hospitals, Yale-New Haven Hospital relies on its professional staff of physicians and registered nurses to consistently deliver excellent patient care. The current and projected shortage of registered nurses, which is expected to be especially severe in Connecticut, must be addressed so patient care is not compromised. Although nursing programs across the State have expanded their enrollments and produced more registered nurses over the past several years, the growing nurse faculty shortage is now precluding further expansion. As healthcare becomes increasingly complex with the continuous infusion of new technologies and advances in medical therapies, it is imperative that Connecticut hospitals and other healthcare organizations have adequate numbers of highly skilled and competent nursing professionals.

The proposed Ed.D. in Nursing Education from the CSUS offers an innovative solution that will help to address both the registered nurse and nurse faculty shortages. Given the current economic climate, the CSUS is proposing a fiscally responsible strategy to address this significant issue by maximizing existing resources of two of its universities. Graduates of this program not only will be able to teach in two-year and four-year nursing programs, but also will be able to teach in graduate nursing education programs to prepare future faculty. This is a critical requirement to ensure that there is a continuous supply of nursing professionals who can assume entry level practice positions and advanced education roles.

I urge you to give full support for this important initiative and thank you for your leadership in addressing the State's nursing workforce needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Marna P. Borgstrom'.

Marna P. Borgstrom
President and Chief Executive Officer

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